

**REMARKS**

The rejection of prior claims 10 to 21 by the Examiner was affirmed on appeal. These claims have now been cancelled.

Applicant has filed an RCE and submits new claims 22 to 33 for consideration by the Examiner. These new claims are directed towards the specific structural arrangement of the laser module as described in the specification and illustrated in Figures. The new claims include the recitation of a "gap" between the holder (50) and the laser diode assembly (23). As noted in the specification at page 7, line 10:

A relatively small air gap may preferably be provided between the laser diode array or stack and the assembly of the cylinder lens of the optical system for focusing radiation, regarded in the directions of radiation. This avoids mutual mechanical influence between the cylinder lens and the accordingly associated laser diodes, with the advantage that neither the properties of these laser diodes are changed nor is there a danger of the laser diodes being mechanically destroyed. (See also page 16, line 12+ and page 18, line 8+)

As recited in new independent claims 22 and 28, the gap is created by mounting the holder (50) onto the carrier (70) spaced from the laser diode module (23) (See Figure 6 in particular).


During assembly, the holder and the module are adjusted and aligned relative to each other prior fixing the elements to the carrier. (See page 17, line 25+) It is believed that the structural combination described in new claims 22 and 28 is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: May 5, 2003

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